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REMARKS

We have reviewed the examiner's arguments on page 3 of the Advisory Action. We respectfully disagree with the examiner's arguments and we reintroduce and reiterate the arguments we made for allowance of claims 1-7, 12, and 13 in our Response to Final Office Action mailed on January 29, 2007.

In any event, in our efforts to move this application forward and to expedite our efforts toward allowance of the pending claims, we have amended independent claims 1, 7, and 12 to further recite forming a restricting character set on the basis of the data type "and on at least one data element attribute."

REJECTIONS BASED ON WESSMAN AND DATE

Claims 1-3 and 6-15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,111,005 to Wessman ("Wessman") in view of Date, "An Introduction to Database Systems." ("Date"). Of these rejected claims, claims 1, 7, and 12 are independent claims, with the rest of the rejected claims depending directly or indirectly from claims 1, 7, or 12.

Applicants request reconsideration of these rejections with regard to amended claims 1, 7, and 12, at least because each of these independent claims recites "forming a restricting character set on the basis of the data type and on at least one data element attribute." Forming a restricting character set can be controlled by the data type of the data element and on one or more attributes of the data element.

Wessman simply does not disclose forming a restricting character set on the basis of the data type of the data element and on at least one data element attribute when encrypting the data elements. Date does not cure this defect of Wessman. Given that Wessman and Date both fail to teach or suggest at least this same aspect of the independent claims, no combination of Wessman and Date could have or would have rendered these claims obvious. Accordingly, a prima facie

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case of obviousness does not exist.

REJECTIONS BASED ON MORAR AND DATE

Claims 1-3 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,678,822 to Morar ("Morar") in view of Date. Of these rejected claims, claims 1, 7, and 12 are independent claims, with the rest of the rejected claims depending directly or indirectly from claims 1, 7, or 12.

Applicants request reconsideration of these rejections with regard to amended claims 1, 7, and 12, at least because each of these independent claims recites "forming a restricting character set on the basis of the data type and on at least one data element attribute." Forming a restricting character set can be controlled by the data type of the data element and on one or more attributes of the data element.

Morar simply does not disclose forming a restricting character set on the basis of the data type of the data element and on at least one data element attribute when encrypting the data elements. Date does not cure this defect of Morar. Given that Morar and Date both fail to teach or suggest at least this same aspect of the independent claims, no combination of Morar and Date could have or would have rendered these claims obvious. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness does not exist.
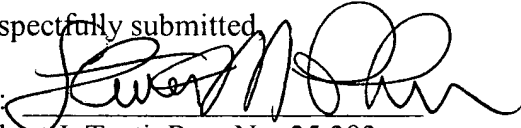
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request entry of this response, reconsideration of all of the rejections, and allowance of all pending claims, namely, claims 1-7, 12, and 13, in due course.

Dated: March 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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